

Recreational Fires

The Duluth Fire Department periodically receives questions concerning campfires or recreational fires within the city of Duluth. Although these types of fires are legal and a permit is not required, there are a few basic rules that need to be followed.

Recreational fires cannot be located within 25 feet of a structure (including decks and fences) unless they are in an approved container designed for this purpose, such as a screened appliance. Even in an approved container, caution should be taken to protect nearby combustibles. Any condition that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure needs to be eliminated before lighting the fire. The fire cannot be more than three feet in diameter and must be two feet or less in height.



The only approved burning material is clean dry wood. The burning leaves, garbage, newspapers, etc is prohibited due to offensive or objectionable smoke generated. What may be enjoyable for you may not be enjoyable for your neighbors. Be a good neighbor and don't have a recreational fire on breezy days. The wind can spread of smoke throughout the neighborhood causing neighbor complaints blocks away. Fire generating objectionable smoke will be extinguished.

Recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. You must have a fire extinguisher or a garden hose available immediate use and make sure that the fire is completely extinguished when you are done enjoying it.

So have fun, roast a few marshmallows, sing a few songs, and, above all, do it in a safe manner.

The City of Duluth follows all DNR burning restrictions. Check for current restrictions at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html